

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

C 1 1. (currently amended) A maraging steel having high fatigue strength, consisting essentially, by mass, of not more than 0.008% C, from 0 inclusive but not more than 2.0% Si, from 0 inclusive but not more than 3.0% Mn, not more than 0.010% P, not more than 0.005% S, 12 to 22% Ni, 3.0 to 7.0% Mo, ~~less than 7.0%~~ not more than 6.9% Co, not more than 0.05% Ti, not less than 0.06 % and not more than 2.0% Al, less than 0.005% N (nitrogen), not more than 0.003% O (oxygen), and the balance substantially Fe, a total amount of $(3\text{Si} + 1.8\text{Mn} + \text{Co}/3 + \text{Mo} + 2.6\text{Ti} + 4\text{Al})$ being in a range of 8.0 to 13.0%,

wherein the maraging steel has a hardness of not less than Hv 502.

2. (original) A maraging steel having high fatigue strength according to claim 1, further containing not more than 4 mass % Cr.

3. (original) A maraging steel having high fatigue strength according to claim 1, further containing not more than 0.01 mass % B.

4. (original) A maraging steel having high fatigue strength according to claim 2, further containing not more than 0.01 mass % B.

5. (original) A maraging steel having fatigue strength according to claim 4, further containing, by mass, at least one kind selected from the group consisting of

not more than 1.0% Nb, not more than 2.0% Ta, and not more than 2.0% W.

6. (original) A maraging steel having high fatigue strength according to claim 4, further containing, by mass, at least one kind not more than 0.5% in total selected from the group consisting of Nb, Ta, and W.

7. (original) A maraging steel having high fatigue strength according to claim 1, wherein said steel has crystal grains fine in size which is not less than 9 in ASTM number.

8. (original) A maraging steel strip made by use of a maraging steel according to claim 1, comprising a nitride layer formed on a surface portion of said maraging steel, and compressive residual stress in said surface portion.

9. (original) A maraging steel strip made by use of a maraging steel according to claim 3, comprising a nitride layer formed on a surface portion of said maraging steel, and compressive residual stress in said surface portion.

10. (original) A maraging steel strip made by use of a maraging steel according to claim 5, comprising a nitride layer formed on a surface portion of said maraging steel, and compressive residual stress in said surface portion.

11. (currently amended) A maraging steel having high fatigue strength,

consisting essentially, by mass, of not more than 0.008% C, from 0 inclusive but not more than 1.0% Si, from 0 inclusive but not more than 2.0% Mn, not more than 0.010% P, not more than 0.005% S, 12 to 22% Ni, 3.0 to 7.0% Mo, ~~less than 7.0%~~ not more than 6.9% Co, not more than 0.05% Ti, not less than 0.06% and not more than 2.0% Al, less than 0.005% N (nitrogen), not more than 0.003% O, and the balance substantially Fe, a total amount of $(3\text{Si} + 1.8\text{Mn} + \text{Co}/3 + \text{Mo} + 2.6\text{Ti} + 4\text{Al})$ being in a range of 8.0 to 13.0%,

wherein the maraging steel has a hardness of not less than Hv 502.

12. (original) A maraging steel having high fatigue strength according to claim 11, further containing not more than 4 mass% Cr.

13. (original) A maraging steel having high fatigue strength according to claim 11, further containing not more than 0.01 mass% B.

14. (original) A maraging steel having high fatigue strength according to claim 12, further containing not more than 0.01 mass% B.

15. (original) A maraging steel having high fatigue strength according to claim 14, further containing, by mass, at least one kind selected from the group consisting of not more than 1.0% Nb, not more than 2.0% Ta, and not more than 2.0% W.

16. (original) A maraging steel having high fatigue strength according to claim

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14, further containing, by mass, at least one kind not more than 0.5% in total selected from the group containing of Nb, Ta, and W.

17. (original) A maraging steel having high fatigue strength according to claim 11, wherein said steel has crystal grains fine in size which is not less than 9 in ASTM number.

18. (original) A maraging steel strip made by use of a maraging steel according to claim 1, comprising a nitride layer formed on a surface portion of said maraging steel, and compressive residual stress in said surface portion.

19. (original) A maraging steel strip made by use of a maraging steel according to claim 13, comprising a nitride layer formed on a surface portion of said maraging steel, and compressive residual stress in said surface portion.

20. (original) A maraging steel strip made by use of a maraging steel according to claim 15, comprising a nitride layer formed on a surface portion of said maraging steel, and compressive residual stress in said surface portion.

21. (previously added) A maraging steel strip made by use of a maraging steel according to claim 11, comprising a nitride layer formed on a surface portion of said maraging steel, and compressive residual stress in said surface portion.

22. (previously added) A maraging steel having high fatigue strength according to claim 1, wherein the amount of Co is not less than 3.2%.

23. (previously added) A maraging steel having high fatigue strength according to claim 11, wherein the amount of Co is not less than 3.2%.

24. (currently amended) A maraging steel having high fatigue strength, consisting essentially, by mass, of not more than 0.008% C, from 0 inclusive but not more than 2.0% Si, from 0 inclusive but not more than 3.0% Mn, not more than 0.010% P, not more than 0.005% S, 12 to 22% Ni, 3.0 to 7.0% Mo, ~~less than 7.0%~~ not more than 6.9% Co, not more than 0.05% Ti, not less than 0.06 % and not more than 2.0% Al, less than 0.005% N (nitrogen), not more than 0.003% O (oxygen), and the balance substantially Fe, wherein said maraging steel contains each of the elements Si, Mn, Co, Mo, Ti and Al in an amount such that each of said elements is present and meets a total amount of $(3\text{Si} + 1.8\text{Mn} + \text{Co}/3 + \text{Mo} + 2.6\text{Ti} + 4\text{Al})$ in a range of 8.0 to 13.0%, wherein the maraging steel has a hardness of not less than Hv 502.

25. (currently amended) A maraging steel having high fatigue strength, consisting essentially, by mass, of not more than 0.008% C, not more than 0.010% P, not more than 0.005% S, 12 to 22% Ni, 3.0 to 7.0% Mo, ~~less than 7.0%~~ not more than 6.9% Co, not more than 0.05% Ti, 0.57 to 2.0% Al, less than 0.005% N, not more than 0.003% O (oxygen), and the balance substantially Fe, a total amount of said elements

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Co, Mo, Ti and Al which total amount is defined by $(\text{Co}/3 + \text{Mo} + 2.6\text{Ti} + 4\text{Al}) (3\text{Si} + 1.8\text{Mn} + \text{Co}/3 + \text{Mo} + 2.6\text{Ti} + 4\text{Al})$ being in a range of 8.0 to 13.0%,

wherein the maraging steel has a hardness of not less than Hv 502.

26. (previously added) A maraging steel according to claim 25, further containing not more than 4.0 mass % Cr.

27. (previously added) A maraging steel according to claim 26, further containing not more than 0.01 mass % B.

28. (previously added) A maraging steel according to claim 27, further containing at least one element selected from the group consisting of not more than 1.0 mass % Nb, not more than 2.0 mass % Ta, and not more than 2.0% W.

29. (previously added) A maraging steel according to claim 28, wherein the total amount of said at least one element is not more than 0.5 mass %.

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